(b) Various development/modernisation works undertaken at airports in Tamil Nadu, amount involved and time schedule and status are as under:

Tricky—Strengthening and extension of runway and allied works to be completed by August, 2006 at the cost of Rs. 25.93 crores, construction of new integrated terminal complex for 400 passengers at a time to be completed by December, 2007 at the cost of Rs. 74.70 crores.

Madurai—Strengthening and extension of runway and allied works to be completed by October, 2006 at the cost of Rs. 35.25 crores.

Coimbatore—Strengthening and extension of runway upto 8500 feet at the cost of Rs. 19 crores has been completed. Further extension of runway upto 9000 feet at the cost of Rs. 27 crores would be taken up once the additional land is handed over by the State Government.

Chennai—Expansion and modification of vacated departure areas to cater international arrival facilities at the cost of Rs. 23.47 crores is at advanced stage.

(c) and (d) Government has no plan at present to construct more airports in Tamil Nadu. All airports owned by Airports Authority of India in Tamil Nadu are operational where scheduled flights are operating except the airport at Salem where only non-scheduled operations take place.

Additional service to Kolkata

1510. SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that there is no flight of Indian between Delhi to Kolkata and Kolkata to Delhi between 07.00 hrs and 17.00 hrs; and

(b) whether Government would introduce at least one pair of flight between above destination within the gap period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Time slots for the operation of all flights are decided by the airlines on the basis of commercial inputs and

operational feasibility. As per the current schedule filed with the Directorate General of Civil Aviation, Indian Airlines is operating two daily flights each on Delhi-Kolkata-Delhi and Kolkata-Delhi-Kolkata sectors between 07.00 hrs. and 17.00 hrs. Besides, scheduled operators, like Jet Airways, Sahara Airlines, Air Decan, Kingfisher Airlines and Spice Jet are also operating on these sectors during the above time period. Indian Airlines has plans to increase frequency on Delhi-Kolkata route subject to availability of resources.

Review of promotional schemes of Indian

1511. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian has a scheme of non-refundable tickets;

(b) if so, whether the Scheme is against the usual commercial ethics and facilities;

(c) what steps will be taken by Indian to introduce feasible and practical commercial schemes; and

(d) what steps is Indian taking to improve overall functioning?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir. Under special schemes such as 'Unchecked Fares' where very low fares are offered, there is a restrictive condition of non-refundable tickets.

(b) No, Sir. Indian Airlines being a commercial organisation has to act on business principles and, as such, has to ensure that promotional fares/schemes offered by it do not become counter productive.

(c) Indian Airlines constantly endeavours to upgrade and add value to the product offered to the passengers. In order to remain competitive, Indian Airlines introduces market driven schemes for the convenience of travelling passengers.

(d) Measures like comprehensive budgetary control system, cost control and economy measures, fleet augmentation/renewal, marketing initiatives, in-flight initiatives, service upgrades on ground, improvements